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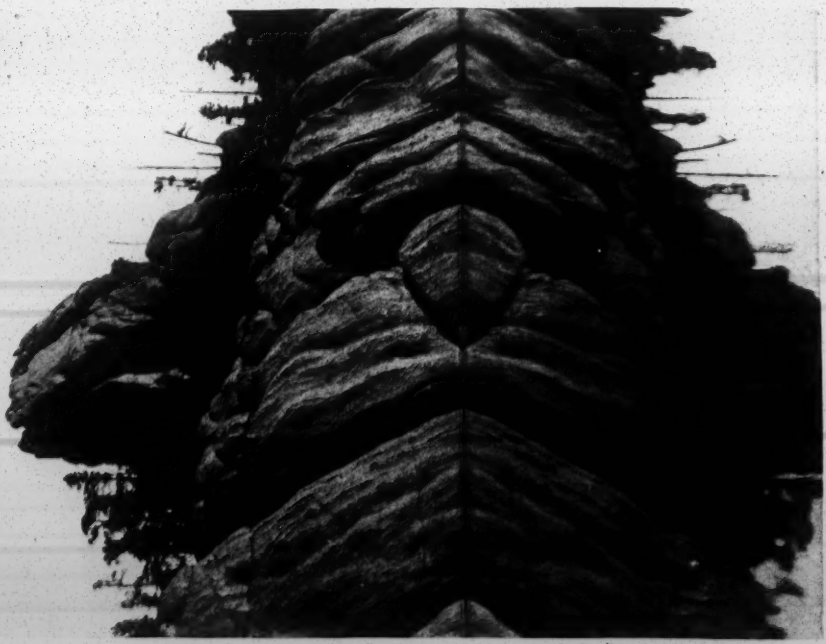

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ROCKS AND WATER CREATE AN "APRIL FOOL" DEMON

Turn this picture to the right to see it as the photographer did. Nature and geography constantly are playing "April Fool" with all of us. This rugged bank borders Sylvan Lake, one of the scenic features of Custer State Park, South Dakota (See Bulletin No. 4).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Last of the Manchus Heads Asia's Newest State

HENRY PU YI, former Emperor of China, has become the head of the new state formed from Manchuria and Jehol, Asia's latest political unit, part of which is the home of his ancestors, the Manchus. His title is "Chin Cheng," which can be translated in English as regent, dictator, president, or chief executive.

Republican forms of government have been followed in setting up the machinery of the new state, but everything, purposely, is a bit hazy, so that a monarchy can be established if necessary.

New State Has Many Names

The new state itself has as many titles as its leader. So far four names have been bestowed upon it in rapid succession: Ankuo, Daida (meaning "Great Union"), Manchoukuo ("Land of Manchuria"), and Tatung ("Great Unity"). Until a name is finally settled upon, the new territorial unit might well be called, descriptively, "Manchuria plus Jehol."

Although the name of the proposed state seems to shift over night, its territorial make-up is reasonably definite. In it are included the three provinces that heretofore have made up Manchuria: Liaoning (also known as Fengtien and as Mukden Province), Kirin, and Heilungkiang (also known as Amur Province). To these have been added Jehol, hitherto part of Inner Mongolia, to the west. The proposed state thus starts with approximately 443,000 square miles, an area almost as great as that of the Union of South Africa.

The fledgling state of Manchuria and Jehol lies far in the north and has a severe winter climate. If a state of the same shape, area and latitude were marked out in North America, it would embrace roughly parts of Quebec and Ontario as far north as Hudson Bay; would cover all of New England, save a narrow coastal strip; would include all of New York and Pennsylvania, northern sections of Ohio and Indiana, all of Michigan, and all the Great Lakes except Superior.

Some of World's Most Fertile Lands

In Asia's new territorial unit is a population of approximately 33,500,000, yet large regions are sparsely peopled. The greatest density of population is in Liaoning, the southernmost and smallest province; and the least density is in Heilungkiang, the northernmost and largest. Among the cultivated sections are some of the most fertile lands to be found in the world. Large areas are still undeveloped.

The new state is the world's leading grower of soy beans, producing annually nearly a quarter of a billion bushels. About half the production is exported. In the months following harvest, long freight trains, loaded with beans, roll ceaselessly down to the ports where ships of every nation wait to transport them to all continents.

In addition to beans, there is a heavy production of wheat, millet, maize, and grain sorghum on the rich acres of Manchuria and Jehol. The livestock industry reaches large proportions in some regions. In the north are extensive forests, and farther south are vast coal fields and sizable deposits of iron ore.

In choosing a capital for the new state, the committee passed over Mukden, long the capital of Manchuria, and Harbin, the second city, and designated Changchun (also called Kuanchéngtzu), the third city in size. This choice may have

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CAMEL CARAVANS MAKE EVERY DAY SEEM LIKE CIRCUS DAY IN ADDIS ABABA

While shiny new automobiles have appeared on the streets of the Ethiopian capital, improved roads extend only a few miles into the environs, and transport generally in this part of Africa is by camel caravan, or on horseback. The present regime is modernizing the city (See Bulletin No. 5).

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The World's Ever-Shifting Pile of Gold

ONE of the strangest international developments of recent weeks is the rush to dump gold into England's lap. England, it will be recalled, went off the gold standard last September because of the rapid dwindling of its gold reserves.

Down through the ages gold has loomed large in world news, and is still a favorite front-page topic. Hardly a day passes without gold creeping into the headlines: A great nation drops the gold standard; another adds steadily to its stock of the precious metal; new mines are discovered in the Philippines, Sweden, Mexico; large gold shipments cross the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian oceans. The world is, and always has been, "Gold conscious."

Hazy Ideas of Gold Amounts

Despite universal interest in the yellow metal, the average person probably has hazy ideas of the actual amounts of gold involved in world stocks, annual production, and the shipments back and forth between countries. To a considerable extent this is due to the extremely small unit—the "fine ounce"—by which the weight of gold is measured; and to the tiny gold dollar, smaller than a dime, when minted, by which value is gauged in the United States.

It will help visualize the amounts of gold that figure in the world's news if we construct in imagination a gold "super dollar," worth one hundred million dollars. This super dollar will be a disk a foot thick and just a fraction less than 18¾ feet in diameter. It will thus retain, roughly, the shape and proportions of the ordinary gold dollar, will contain a trifle more than 275½ cubic feet of gold, and will weigh a little less than 166 tons.

Gold production figures are not available for the history of civilization, nor even for the Christian era. But we do have fairly accurate estimates of the gold mined in all parts of the earth since the discovery of America. Let us imagine all this gold brought together at one spot and minted into super dollars. With the aid of a huge crane we can have these huge yellow "chips" piled one on top of another to see how high the world's "stack" will reach. When 223 have been put in place the supply of full "dollars" will have been exhausted. As a capstone we will have to hoist to the top half a disk, worth $50,000,000.

Here, then, in a sparkling column 18¾ feet in diameter and more than 223 feet high, would rest all the gold that has been gleaned in 440 years of toil. The column would be about as high as a 20-story building, and would be worth $22,350 000,000. During the past five years, a "super dollar" has been added to this world pile about every three months—$400,000,000 worth of gold each year.

Gold's "Lost Battalions"

But as soon as we have built up our imaginary stack, we must begin pulling it down if we would represent the present gold situation. For although twenty-two and a third billion dollars worth of gold has been produced from 1492 to 1932, this is not the amount "in sight" in the world to-day. Nearly half the precious metal represented by our imaginary stack has been lost, hidden away, or used up in industry, the making of jewelry, the gilding of ornaments, and the like.

The total known stock of gold money and gold bars in the world at the end of 1931 was worth eleven and a half billion dollars. We must therefore discard something like the upper half of our imaginary stack of gold, leaving only 115 disks in place. This 115-foot tower of precious metal represents the monetary gold of the world.

But again we must alter our golden tower. At no time, of course, has all the world's monetary gold been assembled in one country. The greatest concentration occurred in September, 1931, when the amount of gold coin and gold cast in bars in the United States slightly exceeded five billion dollars. In the United States, then, there could have been built last autumn the greatest tower of gold possible from the holdings of a single nation—a stack of 50 of our gigantic hundred-million-dollar "chips." At the same time France could have piled up 25 of the great disks.

Most National Piles Small

From France's sizable 25-foot cylinder of gold, the national towers of precious metal fall to very modest piles. Great Britain, last September, could muster gold enough for only a little more than six of the super dollars; Spain and Japan a little more than four; Belgium, three and a half; Germany, Switzerland, and the Soviet Union, three; Italy, The Netherlands, and Argentina, less than three; India, less than two; and Canada, less than one.

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been dictated by a desire to place the capital in a central location; for, with the addition of Jehol, Changchun becomes much nearer the geographic center of the new state than Mukden, and much nearer the population center than Harbin.

There are also strong political and economic reasons for the choice. Changchun marked the northern advance of the Japanese forces during the Japanese-Russian War in 1905, and has since been the northern terminus of the Japanese-owned South Manchuria Railway. The railway north from Changchun for 147 miles to Harbin has been owned and controlled jointly by Russians and Chinese as a part of the Chinese Eastern Railway system. This stretch from Changchun to Harbin, like the east-west portion of the Chinese Eastern, is of a five-foot gauge, whereas the South Manchuria Railway has the standard American gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches. It has been necessary to transship freight at Changchun and the town has become an important trade center. A third railway extends eastward. The city is probably the greatest soy bean center in Manchuria.

Like many other cities of Manchuria, Changchun has an Old Town and a New Town. The New Town has sprung up since 1905 and centers around the imposing station of the Japanese Railway. It has plazas and parks, its streets are broad, and its buildings modern. A mile and a third away lies the Old Town, inclosed by a wall, save on the side bounded by a tributary of the Sungari River.

Note: For additional material about Asia's fledgling state see "Byroads and Backwoods of Manchuria," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1932; "Manchuria, Promised Land of Asia," October, 1929; and "A Thousand Miles along the Great Wall of China," February, 1923. In recent months the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS have covered important developments in the Manchuria situation. See: "Tsitsihar, Walled Capital of Manchuria's Largest Province," December 7, 1931; "Sungari River, Busy Manchurian Trade Route," November 2, 1931; "Chinchowfu, Temporary Chinese Capital of Manchuria," December 14, 1931; "China's Great Wall Again is the Frontier," January 25, 1932; and "Manchuria, Transformed by Railways," October 12, 1931.

Bulletin No. 1, March 28, 1932

© *Photograph by Leonid Dalevitch*

MANCHURIAN OX-CARTS AND A LOAD OF EVER-USEFUL FELT

Felt serves many purposes among the tribesmen of the Mongolian-Manchuria border regions, now part of the new Manchu state. Nomads erect houses, or yurts, by placing felt over wooden frames, and they also use this warm, thick material as a cover for their carts (above) and as rugs. For a graphic series of photographs, showing how felt is made in western China, see: "First Over the Roof of the World by Motor," *National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1932.

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Sapelo, and Other Historic Georgia "Sea Isles"

SAPELO ISLAND, off the coast of Georgia, came into the day's news when it was announced that Mrs. Herbert Hoover, wife of the President, would stop there during her recent southern cruise. Circumstances prevented the visit, but as Mrs. Hoover passed the island en route from Savannah to Brunswick, Georgia, she may have seen the flag pole from which floated the President's flag in 1929, when President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge spent a week on Sapelo.

Sapelo, which is privately owned, is a typical member of the group of famous "sea isles" that stretch along the coast of lower Southern Carolina and Georgia. With its fellows, Jekyl, St. Catherine (Santa Catalina), St. Simon, and others, it was the home of sea-island cotton, noted since colonial days for its long fiber.

Here American Tropics Begin

In this region, along the coast, begin "the American tropics." The gnarled old live-oaks hang with long festoons of moss, while underneath grow luxuriant vines and shrubs.

Sapelo's thousands of acres of moss-hung forest are almost as they were in the days of Spanish occupation centuries ago save for the skilfully hidden roads and bridle paths that traverse the isle.

Sapelo Island is about eight miles long, or, counting Blackbeard Island, which is separated from it only by a narrow marsh, nearly 11 miles. The width varies from two to four miles. On the sea side is a sandy beach. Behind this the interior is heavily wooded save where farms have been hewn out. On the west or landward side are broad marshes threaded by numerous creeks.

Great Manor House in Spanish Style

On the forest edge of the east side of the island is the manor house with a beautiful vista down to the ocean beach. It was built with every care to preserve the atmosphere and romantic tradition. It is Spanish in architecture, in perfect harmony with its historic surroundings, yet spacious, having in one wing nearly a score of bedrooms for guests, while the family members occupy another wing. Within the house is a swimming pool built of blue tile with a glass dome.

Sapelo boasts a splendid, abundant artesian water supply which has been traced to its origin in the Georgia Mountains. (See illustration, next page.) The owner has gathered a herd of blooded cattle that thrive in this tickless Eden.

A considerable area of Sapelo is uncultivated and is maintained as a game preserve stocked with deer, wild turkeys, wild peacocks, pheasants and other fowls. Among the interesting feathered denizens are Chacalacas, relatives of pheasants, which have been introduced from Mexico with the cooperation of the United States Biological Survey.

The Sea Islands of Georgia have played an important part in American history. They were among the first bits of land on the south Atlantic coast on which settlements were established, because all of them have areas of firm ground 20 to 40 feet above the sea, whereas broad areas of the seaward edge of the mainland are marshy.

Spaniards were the first comers, moving up the coast by water from Cuba not many years after the voyages of Columbus. They organized the region as the

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A striking fact in regard to the gold holdings of countries is that South Africa, which in the last few centuries has produced an amount of gold equal to the U. S. record last autumn, held at that time less than enough monetary gold to construct one-half of one of the hundred-million-dollar disks.

To get a vivid idea of the changes in the gold supply of the United States, let us imagine all the go'd movements of 1931 affecting the United States to be concentrated around this country's "gold tower." At the beginning of 1931, forty-five full super dollars would have been piled one on the other, while on top would have been the 46th golden disk with only a tiny wedge missing. Gradually, net gold importations would have built the pile higher. Before the middle of January the 46th disk would have been complete; by the end of March there would have been 47; by late June, 49; and by mid-September, the tower's peak would have been reached, with 50 of the super dollars in place.

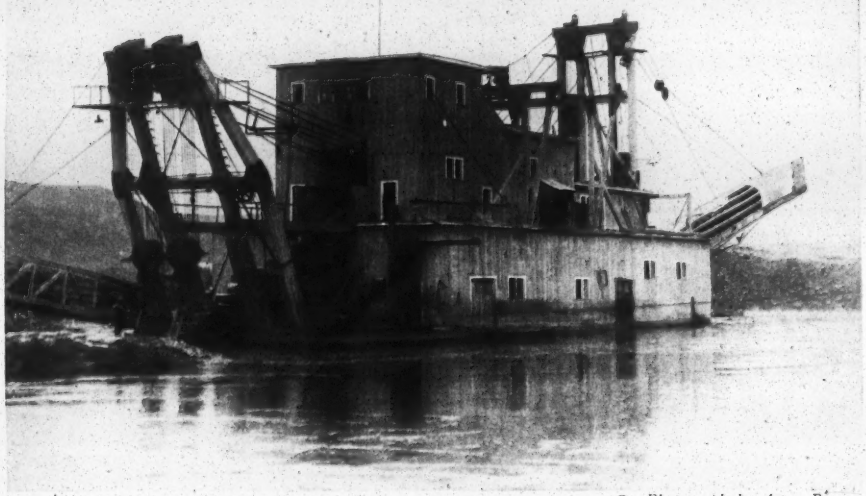
After the middle of September, one of the heaviest gold export periods ever experienced in the United States set in. An observer at the mythical tower of gold would have witnessed feverish activity in removing the huge disks. In a little over a month he would have seen more than seven of the mammoth gold units lowered from the tower and carted away for shipment overseas. By the end of October only 42¾ of the super dollars would have remained.

Then gold would have begun to arrive again at the tower's base, from imports, and the work of building would have been resumed. By the end of 1931, more than 1 1/3 of the heavy disks would have been added to the tower, bringing it to a height of a little over 44 feet.

As a final operation of the year we can imagine there being hoisted into place a segment equal to about a third of a super dollar—worth $33,000 000—representing the gold produced within the borders of the United States during the year, less the new gold made into jewelry and used in other industries and arts. The country's tower, then, after its marked ups and downs, would have contained, at the end of the year, 44½ of our super dollars—roughly one and a quarter less than when the year started.

Note: See also "The Geography of Money," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1927. For supplementary reading about gold-producing regions see: "Under the South African Union," April, 1931; "Gigantic Brazil and Its Glittering Capital," December, 1930; "To-day on the Yukon Trail of 1898," July, 1930; "Gentlemen Adventurers of the Air" (Canada) November, 1929; and "Among the Zapotecs of Mexico," May 1927.

Bulletin No. 2, March 28, 1932



© *Photograph by Amos Burg*

HERE IS HOW GOLD IS MINED ON THE KLONDIKE RIVER TO-DAY

Giant electric machines have replaced the lonely prospector and his pick. These floating dredges scoop up great bites of the river sand and rock, carry it up on endless belts, sift the gold from other materials, and drop the waste behind them. Gold-mining at Dawson, Yukon Territory, is pretty dull business to-day. Canada is one of the world's leading producers of gold, but most of the big "diggings" are now in the Province of Ontario.

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More Geographic "April Foolers"

WHAT is the distance from New York to Boston? Eight miles! This statement has the earmarks of an April Fool joke, but it is correct—in England. England, too, has a New York and a Boston, both Lincolnshire villages, and but eight miles of open fenland separate them.

Place-names, boundaries, distances, products, and other geographical features constantly play April Fool with all of us. It seems absurd to ask: "Which has the longer seacoast, Alaska or the United States?" Yet geography shows that Alaska, with a total area only twice that of Texas, is far ahead—with 15,132 miles to 12,877 for the United States proper.

Farthest South of Two Continents

The amazing development of foreign trade and tourist travel since the World War has given added importance to geographical exactness. Ask the average person to name the southernmost points of the South American and the African *continents*, and the answers will likely be "Cape Horn" and "Cape of Good Hope." Yet when he visits these regions the traveler is astonished to find that Cape Horn is on a very tiny island, 150 miles south of the nearest part of the continental mainland, and that the Cape of Good Hope is about 100 miles northwest of Cape Agulhas, the extreme southern tip of Africa.

Most modern ships "round the Horn" by sailing through the Strait of Magellan, which winds many miles north of the Cape. Few living persons have seen Cape Horn, not only because it is off the steamer routes, but also because it is usually shrouded in fog. The actual southernmost point of the South American continent is Cape Froward, on the Brunswick Peninsula.

Geographical exactness becomes dollars and cents for steamship companies. A captain in Buenos Aires with a cargo that would sell equally well in, let us say, Jacksonville, Florida, or St. Johns, Newfoundland, would naturally choose the nearer point to save fuel. Strange as it may seem, St. Johns would be his choice. The Newfoundland capital is 130 miles nearer Buenos Aires than is Jacksonville, although the Florida city is more than 2,300 miles farther down the Atlantic coast in the direction of South America. The overhang of the north Atlantic coast places St. Johns far enough east to account for the difference.

Rivers, Too, Play April Fool

Rivers, too, have a habit of playing April Fool. The Rio Grande is a notorious cut-up in this respect. In flood times it eats away its banks as though they were brown sugar, often forcing new channels across narrow necks where the stream loops. When this happens the land cut off is thrust into alien domain. Many a river-bank resident has gone to sleep in the United States and found himself in Mexico the next morning.

Don't answer this one too quickly. On which side of the Missouri River is Kansas City, Missouri, and on which side is Kansas City, Kansas? Both lie on the south bank, although it is customary to speak of "crossing the river" when going from one to the other. The river in question, however, is the Kansas River, which partially separates the two cities.

Because bananas grow on stalks which often stand as high as a three-story building they are said to grow on "trees." The banana, however, is really an

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District of Guale, a part of the Province of La Florida. Soldier and padre went hand in hand in the Spanish scheme of settlement, as they did later in Texas and California. Missions were established by the Jesuits on four of the islands. These missions were established in 1568, soon after St. Augustine was founded and long before missions were built in Texas and California.

Religious and literary history were written on the Sea Islands. Brother Domingo, one of the early Jesuits, wrote a Guale grammar soon after the founding of the mission, the first book, it is believed, to be written in America.

The islands suffered from sea raids during the American Revolution and the War of 1812, and were almost deserted at the close of the latter conflict. When peace came the islands had their golden age, with sea-island cotton raised on great plantations. After the Civil War the islands lost their prosperity, and it is only in recent years that a new development has been started.

Note: See also "Marching through Georgia Sixty Years After," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1926. For color photographs of the famous gardens of the near-by South Carolina coast: "Exploring the Atlantic Seaboard with a Color Camera," and "The Ashley River and Its Gardens," May, 1926. Florida, also visited by Mrs. Hoover on her tour, is depicted in "Florida, the Fountain of Youth," January, 1930.

Bulletin No. 3, March 28, 1932

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AN ARTESIAN WELL ON SAPELO ISLAND

Georgia's "Sea Isles" are fortunate in having such ever-flowing sources of fresh water, surrounded as they are by marshes and the sea. Artesian wells get their pressure from far-away mountains, the water following rock layers downward until it is released, either in the sea, or through dug wells, such as this one.

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Addis Ababa, Changing Capital of Oldest Empire

ADDIS ABABA, mountain-girt capital of Ethiopia (Abyssinia), the world's oldest empire, wants the world to know that foreigners are welcome, and that they will be safe on its highways and byways. When the American Minister was attacked by Addis Ababa police officers recently through a misunderstanding, the Emperor decided that the offending officers should be sentenced to a year in jail, pay a $500 fine, and, in addition, the entire police force, with the guilty officers in chains, should parade to the scene of the incident, and there publicly apologize to our Minister.

Snuggling against the Ethiopian hills about 350 miles as the crow flies southwest of Djibouti, port of French Somaliland on the Gulf of Aden, Addis Ababa enjoyed almost complete isolation until 1918 when the French thrust a railroad from Djibouti, to the city.

Now Best Known City in Northeast Africa

Before the first locomotive steamed into the city, most travelers were content with a view of the Ethiopian hills from the decks of steamers plying the Red Sea. Then, traveling in the country was a test of endurance and tact. Roads were mere paths and caravan routes, winding in corkscrew fashion through the hilly country, and natives were none too friendly. To reach the capital, which lies in the center of the country, an arduous trip of nearly 500 miles was necessary.

In less than two decades, the Ethiopian capital has risen from obscurity to the best known city in northeast Africa. In 1928, after a lapse of twenty years, the United States reestablished diplomatic relations and sent a minister to Addis Ababa. A year later the Empire joined the Universal Postal Union. Now air mail service links Addis Ababa and Djibouti.

Hardly had the suspicious natives of Addis Ababa become accustomed to the shriek of locomotive whistles at the railway station, when the shrill horns of shiny new automobiles sent pedestrians scurrying to safety. Meanwhile men were set to work paving streets and replacing the thatched-roofed huts with substantial residences, business buildings and comfortable hotels. From a straggling settlement the capital developed into a city of 70,000 inhabitants, about 50 of whom are Americans.

Throngs of Native Visitors

But, with all its improvements, Addis Ababa is the "place to go" for all Ethiopians, and its modern veneer is dissipated by the throngs of native visitors. As in pre-railroad days, the streets teem with men and women whose wardrobe consists of a few yards of cloth in which they wrap themselves from shoulders to knees. Hats and shoes are seldom worn but often the hot sun demands an unbrella which, to the foreigner, resembles a compote or fruit dish, upside down on the end of a long handle.

The contents of huge packing cases from Michigan continue to swell the "automobile population" of Addis Ababa, but the whir of non-skid tires on the improved streets has not yet drowned out the thud of camel and donkey hoofs. These ungainly beasts will challenge the motor vehicle as long as the roads beyond the city limits remain unimproved (see illustration, page 2).

The market place is the focus of life in the capital. There the traveler sees

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herb, reaching its full height in one season. Bamboo, which provides "wood" for Chinese homes and bridges, is a grass. Coffee, often referred to as "a cup of Java," comes mostly from Brazil, but it is a native of Ethiopia (Abyssinia). Washington's famous Japanese cherry trees, superb scenic assets, produce no cherries. China uses the "Mexican dollar" for coinage, but Mexico has no coin called a "dollar"—the peso and centavo being the official units of value below the Rio Grande.

Place Names, Colorful but Untrue

Place names often make a place appear to be what it "ain't." Iceland, for instance, has little ice, but it has a great deal of natural steam heat from its many hot springs and geysers. Greenland, as is well known, is not green, but the largest icebowl in the world, with only a strip of mountainous coastline exposed. Down in Africa, Spain has a colony called Rio de Oro, its name meaning River of Gold. But Rio de Oro has neither rivers nor gold.

Note: See also "Under the South African Union," *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1931; "Rounding the Horn in a Windjammer," February, 1931; "The Black Hills, Once Hunting Ground of the Red Men," September, 1927; and "Along Our Side of the Mexican Border," July, 1920.

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STRANGELY FAMILIAR IS THIS SIGNPOST IN LINCOLNSHIRE

A National Geographic staff photographer, journeying through the English fenland, stops to get his bearings between New York and Boston, two places he seems to have heard of before! The bee-line distance between England's New York and Boston is eight miles, although this crossroad sign shows them to be 12 miles apart by road.

the Addis Ababa housewives in spotlessly clean cotton rubbing elbows with half-naked tribeswomen from remote regions where their grease-soaked, smelly hair is their leading charm. There a wealthy feudal lord or merchant, astride a gaily-draped donkey, displays his social position by the number of servants following his "charger."

Cotton Goods From America

A tour of the market place reveals many of the products of Ethiopia and now and then an imported article such as cotton goods from American mills. There are sacks of salt and grain, goat skins bulging with honey, spearheads and other weapons which young Ethiopians often buy merely for adornment, hardware, crockery, baskets and many fruits and vegetables.

Note: Ethiopia, one of the most unusual and colorful nations in the world to-day, and its capital, Addis Ababa, are described and illustrated in "Modern Ethiopia," "Coronation Days in Addis Ababa," and "Present Day Scenes in the World's Oldest Empire," *National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1931; and "Nature and Man in Ethiopia," August, 1928.

Bulletin No. 5, March 28, 1932

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LOOKS AS IF A SAMSON HAD BEEN AMUSING HIMSELF WITH TREES!

These substitutes for signboards in western Ethiopia, however, were knotted by quite an ordinary man when the trees were small. Continuing to grow in pretzel fashion, they furnish means of marking little-used paths.